

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO. 25X1A

TOPIC Reorganization of the Volkspolizei Dienststellen in Quedlinburg and Muehlhausen

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DATE OF CONTENT February and March 1952

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REFERENCES

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REMARKS

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1. In early February 1952, the Volkspolizei Dienststelle (VPD) in Quedlinburg-Quarnbeck consisted of: the headquarters with a supply section, a motor transport section, a central ordnance section, an artillery supply section, a medical section, and a military band; 3 infantry Kommandos; 1 artillery Kommando; and 1 Sonderabteilung (Arm'd). Details on the composition of infantry Kommandos were not available. The structure of the artillery Kommando was as follows: headquarters with the commanding officer, the deputy commander and PK chief, a party secretary, an FDJ secretary, the chief of staff, the chief of training, an officer in charge of classified documents, and an undetermined number of clerks; 1 headquarters Zug consisting of computers, radio and telephone operators; 5 batteries with 1 headquarters Zug and 1 gun Zug and 4 guns to each battery. In early February 1952, the artillery Kommando of the VPD in Quedlinburg-Quarnbeck was equipped with 3 model 18 x 105-mm light field howitzers, 1 Soviet 122-mm light field howitzer, and 1 Soviet 76.2-mm AT gun. Source believed that the 1st through 4th Sonderabteilungen were distributed among the infantry Kommandos, the 5th and 6th Sonderabteilungen assigned to the artillery Kommando, while the 7th Sonderabteilung continued as an independent unit and was designated an instruction company. As of 1 February, the VPD numbered about 1,800 men.

2. After January 1952, the VPD in Muehlhausen was completely reorganized. Previously a Bereitschaft could be considered as the equivalent of a regiment, after the reorganization it roughly corresponds to a division. Consequently, the Kommandos have become the equivalents of regiments, the Abteilungen became Kommandos, the Zuege companies, and the squads Zuege. After the reorganization, an infantry Kommando consisted of 3 Abteilungen, each of which detached a liaison officer to the Ministry of State Security. An Abteilung is organized into 2 rifle Zuege, 1 heavy machine gun Zug, 1 engineer Zug, 1 reconnaissance squad, 1 medical squad, and in addition, 1 driver for the commanding officer of the Abteilung and 1 motorcycle messenger. A rifle Zug consists of the platoon leader, his deputy, 1 PK functionary, 2 squad leaders and their deputies and an undetermined number of snipers and submachine gunners. A

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heavy machine gun Zug consists of the platoon leader and his deputy, 3 squad leaders and 3 squads with 1 model 08/15 or Maxim heavy machine gun to each squad. A mortar battery is comprised of the platoon leader (sic), his deputy, 1 PK functionary, 2 squad leaders and 2 squads with 2 mortars to each squad. The signal-communication Zug consists of the platoon leader, 2 squad leaders, 1 telephone and 1 radio section. The telephone section is composed of 3 construction crews with 1 NCO and 3 police to each crew, while the radio section has 3 teams each composed of 1 NCO and 1 police. (C-6) The engineer Zug consists of the platoon leader and his deputy, 1 PK functionary, 3 squad leaders and 3 squads with covering, demolition, smoke, pillbox demolition, flame thrower, and supply parties. Source did not know whether all these parties were assigned to each squad or whether 2 of them formed one squad. No details were available on the strength of the reconnaissance squad of an Abteilung. One sergeant (Med) and 2 medical auxiliaries were assigned to each Zug. The artillery Kommandos have been reorganized and consist of 5 batteries with 1 headquarters and 1 fire Zug to each battery. The artillery Kommando in Muehlhausen was equipped with heavy mortars, 76.2-mm guns and model 16 heavy field howitzers. One gun mount and one prime mover were available for each gun. Sonderabteilungen in existence included 1 reconnaissance bicycle Abteilung equipped with small arms; 1 AT Abteilung equipped with 75-mm guns; 1 AAA Abteilung equipped with 88-mm guns; 1 tank Abteilung equipped with T-34 tanks, 88-mm SP guns, Soviet armored reconnaissance cars and model 50 with ammunition prime movers. The motor transport section consisted of the commanding officer, a deputy commander and PK chief, and an undetermined number of drivers and student drivers. It was equipped with trucks, mostly Horch, sedans of various types which were exclusively at the disposal of the headquarters, and motorcycles. In early March 1952, the VPD was quartered in the Goerner Kaserne and in buildings on Heilroder Landstrasse. *

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Comment. The information on the reorganization of the VPDs in Quedlinburg and Muehlhausen is transmitted in one report in order to show more clearly the discrepancies in the statements on the reorganization of the Volkspolizei. The following points appear to be of special interest. The VPD in Quedlinburg, allegedly, comprised only one Sonderabteilung, designated instruction company, while four such Sonderabteilungen, namely reconnaissance, AT artillery, AAA, and armored units, are reportedly in existence with the VPD in Muehlhausen. Prior to the reorganization, the artillery Kommandos consisted of four batteries each. The 5th battery now in existence either is the former heavy mortar Sonderabteilung (heavy mortars were mentioned in connection with the VPD in Muehlhausen) or another gun battery (the VPD in Quedlinburg reportedly has 5 batteries with 4 guns to each battery). In Quedlinburg, the reconnaissance Abteilung was distributed among the infantry Kommandos. In Muehlhausen, however, the infantry Abteilungen organized reconnaissance squads of their own, while a bicycle reconnaissance Sonderabteilung was retained. The armored reconnaissance cars previously assigned to the reconnaissance Abteilung have, allegedly, been transferred to the tank Sonderabteilung. After the reorganization went into effect, an infantry Abteilung in Muehlhausen, allegedly, includes a signal-communication Zug of 21 men. Since a VPD is comprised of 2 infantry Abteilungen, the total strength of all signal-communication Zuege would be 189 men. Prior to the reorganization the signal-communication Sonderabteilung actually consisted of about 15 men. The signal-communication Zuege of the infantry Kommandos had considerably fewer personnel. It therefore appears impossible that the signal-communication personnel of the infantry Kommandos should have been doubled or even tripled. Similar checks with regard to the mortar batteries and engineer platoons, which, allegedly, are organic components of the infantry Abteilungen, indicate that the organization of the infantry Abteilung as stated in the present

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report is incorrect. It is believed that in connection with the reorganization of the Volkspolizei some Sonderabteilungen were either distributed among the individual Kommandos or incorporated into them. It is believed highly improbable that the Sonderabteilungen were split up to the extent that components are now assigned to the individual Abteilungen. The actual procedure followed with regard to these Sonderabteilungen cannot be determined from the contradictory information available. It can only be said with some degree of certainty that the 7th Sonderabteilung (Armd) and probably also the reconnaissance Abteilung continue to exist. There is a possibility that all armored elements have been brought under a centralized command.

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